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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Judicial Council Releases *2005 Annual Report*

### *California Courts Make Progress in Challenging Times*

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California today released its *2005 Annual Report*, a summary of the judicial branch's significant progress and formidable challenges in improving court administration and equal access for Californians. The report also highlights the branch's contributions in confronting the state's fiscal challenges and describes key trends in court caseloads and workloads.

The online version of the annual report links readers to other resources on the California Courts Web site, including reports, studies, fact sheets, and additional online resources that provide detailed information on court topics.

The annual report emphasizes the beginning of the third major reform of the California courts, the shifting of responsibility for court facilities from the counties to the state, starting with the Larson Justice Center in Riverside County. Under the Trial Court Facilities Act, ownership of roughly 450 courthouses eventually will be transferred to the state, enabling many of the facilities to become safer and more accessible to the public. The report also highlights fundamental changes in the judicial branch's budgetary process that promise to provide crucial stability and predictability in the funding for the trial courts in the future.

For more information or copies of this report, call the California Courts Infoline at 800-900-5980 or visit the California Courts Web site at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/reference/documents/ar2005.pdf>

*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice.*